

of the Group on perishable agricultural commodities has estimated in May, 1981 that about 25-40 percent fruits are lost.

(b) The National Horticulture Board (NHB), the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) and Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI) have taken several measures as follows in order to reduce post harvest losses:-

- 1) NHB has started implementation of programmes for strengthening the basic post harvest infrastructure which include setting up pre-cooling units to increase shelf life, improvement in packaging, small cold storages in producing areas and supply of maturity kits for judging right stage of harvesting.
- 2) NCDC is providing financial assistance to producers and marketing Cooperatives for purchase of transport Vehicles, construction of large integrated godowns, grading and packing sheds, establishment of processing units and large cold storages. The cooperatives are also being assisted with loans/equity and margin money in order to increase their marketing operations.
- 3) MFPI have various Plan Schemes for setting up fruit and vegetable processing industries. These include infrastructural and common facilities for food processing industries in

rural areas and development of cold storage facilities at major airports, railway stations and production centres.

Bhopal Gas Tragedy

2081. SHRI SHARAD DIGHE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the follow up action taken on the directions contained in the judgement of the Supreme Court of India dated October 3, 1991 on the Bhopal Gas Tragedy;

(b) whether Government propose to reopen the criminal proceedings against the Union Carbide Corporation in view of the quashing of the orders dated 14/15 February, 1989 granting criminal immunity to them; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. CHINTA MOHAN): (a) to (c). Action taken on the directions contained in the Judgement dt. 3.10.1991 of the Supreme Court on the Bhopal Gas Tragedy are as follows:-

- i) The criminal case which was not closed but in which the hearings were adjourned is being proceeded with in the appropriate Court.
- ii) The Court has issued directions for providing compensation to future victims and investment of the compensation amount for minors, illiterates and semi-literates. The matter has been taken up with

Life Insurance Corporation/General Insurance Corporation and Unit Trust.

- iii) The Government of Madhya Pradesh have informed that they have allotted 30 acres of land in Bhopal free of cost for 500 bedded hospital for MIC victims. According to the report in the press, the UCC is willing to provide Rs. 50 crores towards construction and operation of the hospital.

- iv) For adjudication of claims and distribution of compensation under the provisions of the Bhopal Gas Leak Disaster (Registration and Processing of Claims) Scheme, 1985, the Welfare Commissioner is in place and the process of adjudication should commence by the 3rd February, 1992, the date which the Supreme Court has fixed for commencement of the process.

[Translation]

Implementation of Integrated Rural Development Programme

2082. SHRI RAM SARAN YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to the implementation of Integrated Rural Development Programme, there has been a steep rise in the rural debt;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to review the implementation of Integrated Rural Development Programme and to introduce a new programme in its place; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL): (a) The Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) which is essentially a credit linked programme endeavours to enable selected poor families in rural areas to take up self-employment ventures. One of the purposes of the programme is to free the rural poor from the clutches of money lenders and provide access to institutional credit or production purposes. The total amount of credit disbursed per annum under IRDP is around Rs. 1100-1200 crores. As per the Concurrent Evaluation for IRDP for the period January-December 1989, in about 37% cases there were no overdues among the beneficiaries. Among the cases where overdues were observed which may be an indication of the extent of indebtedness of the beneficiaries, overdues were upto Rs. 250 in 5% cases, between Rs. 251-1000 in 24% cases, between Rs. 1001-2000 in 21% cases and more than Rs. 2000 in 13% cases. The various reasons which had resulted in overdues were identified as inadequate income generation in 22% cases, unforeseen calamities in another 22% cases, repayment of old dues and tight repayment schedule in 2% cases and due to other reasons in the remaining 52% cases.

(b) and (c). The implementation of IRDP is constantly reviewed through Concurrent Evaluation of IRDP and elaborate Monitoring arrangements at the district, state and the central levels. Based on the feedback received through monitoring and evaluation the features of the programme are modified from time to time for improvements in imple-